



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 29, 2009

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“Elizabeth Packard emerges as a vibrant, passionate force of nature [in] this stunning new work.”
—*New York Times*

**The Latest Play by Emily Mann,
Author of *Execution of Justice* and *Having Our Say*,
Published by TCG Books**

NEW YORK — Theatre Communications Group (TCG) is pleased to announce the publication of **Emily Mann’s latest play, *Mrs. Packard*, winner of the Kennedy Center Fund for New American Plays Award.** With this historically-based work, Mann—artistic director and resident playwright of McCarter Theater Center in Princeton, NJ—once again gives voice to the voiceless, in this fascinating story of one woman’s struggle to right a system gone wrong.

“In Emily Mann’s *Mrs. Packard*...she translates real events into dramatic action, and facts become the runway allowing her fine sense of theatre to fly free.” —Edward Albee

Mrs. Packard is set in 1861 Illinois, and tells the story of Elizabeth Packard, a well-educated woman who is committed to an asylum by her husband after she questions his repressive Calvinist doctrine. The play alternates between Packard’s time in the asylum, where she remained for three years, and courtroom testimony from that Packard vs. Packard trial that occurred after her release.

“Powerful... Mann deals seriously with man’s inhumanity to women... getting as close as she can to unvarnished facts.” —TheaterMania.com

Mrs. Packard is based, in part, on several volumes of Packard’s own writing. The play premiered at McCarter Theatre Center, and then was produced at the Kennedy Center, as a winner of the Kennedy Center Fund for New American Plays Award.

“This brilliantly crafted play powerfully explores the infuriating yet inspiring story of an extraordinary woman who ultimately triumphed over the most shocking oppression,” writes Nadine Strossen, former president of the American Civil Liberties Union. “It brings to life remarkable historical figures and practices that aren’t nearly as well known today as they should be, and it also illuminates myriad contemporary issues, both personal and societal.”

Emily Mann is a playwright and director. Her plays include *Execution of Justice* and *Having Our Say*, both of which played on Broadway, as well as *Still Life*, *Annulla: An Autobiography*, *Greensboro: A Requiem* and *Meshugah*. She will be celebrating her 20th season as artistic director of McCarter Theatre Center in Princeton, NJ.

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Theatre Communications Group (TCG) is the national organization for the American theatre. TCG is dedicated to nurturing professional, not-for-profit American theatre institutions, artists, and audiences, and to fulfilling its mission to strengthen, nurture and promote professional, not-for-profit field.

TCG initiatives include a variety of artistic, management, international and advocacy programs. TCG's many publications offer a national resource for reference, opinion, and debate on theatre and the performing arts today. TCG publishes *American Theatre* magazine, ARTSEARCH, and books on theatre and performing arts. Please visit our website and online bookstore at www.tcg.org.

Mrs. Packard
by Emily Mann
Paperback 120pp
\$13.95 978-1-55936-334-1
July 2009

Also available from TCG Books:

Testimonies: Four Plays
by Emily Mann
\$18.95 978-1-55936-117-0

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